

Meeting Report

Pan-European Stakeholder Consultation to support the intersessional process of IPBES

July, 16-18th 2013, Leipzig, Germany



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Summary

Open consultation of draft documents

With its first plenary meeting held in January 2013 in Bonn, Germany, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has moved into its operational phase. The newly elected Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) prepared key documents for the future functioning and the first thematic activities of IPBES:

- [IPBES Draft Work Programme 2014-2018](#),
- [Stakeholder Engagement Strategy](#) for supporting the implementation of the work programme,
- [Procedures on the preparation of the IPBES deliverables](#),
- [Administrative procedures for the selection of MEP](#), and
- [Strategic partnerships](#).

From June, 17th to July 28th, these documents were released for public consultation, and governments and stakeholders of IPBES, like regional knowledge networks, were asked to provide their comments.

Development of a pan-European perspective on IPBES

Whilst being a global platform, IPBES will require substantial input of knowledge and information from regional structures and networks in order to undertake its assessments and fulfil the demands of its further functions capacity building, policy tools and knowledge generation.

Thus, regional perspectives and networking of stakeholders will play a crucial role in making IPBES a success. For Europe, this implies bringing together stakeholders from across the three UN-regions WEOG (Western European Countries and Others Group), EEG (Eastern European Group) and Asia and the Pacific (Asia-Pacific).

Objectives of the Pan-European Stakeholder Consultation (PESC)

To support the IPBES intersessional process, and stakeholder involvement needed at the regional scale, NeFo brought together more than 80 participants from 29 countries for a three-day consultation meeting in Leipzig, Germany. The participants represented a great variety of institutions and organizations, including ministries and administrative bodies, NGOs and civil society organisations, as well as scientific institutions from the WEOG-, the EEG- and the Asia Pacific-Region. The meeting offered a pan-European forum for discussion and input at this critical phase of the emerging IPBES.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- to inform the European biodiversity knowledge community on the IPBES process;
- to provide direct input into the IPBES intersessional consultation in June/July by developing recommendations from a pan-European perspective on the
 - IPBES Draft Work Programme 2014-2018 and the
 - Stakeholder Engagement Strategy; and
- to discuss and explore the options for the future support of IPBES from a pan-European regional perspective.

Outcome of the meeting

Products

During the meeting the participants created **two consolidated review comments** and a **statement on the pan-European IPBES support perspective**:

- [review comments for the IPBES Draft Work Programme 2014-2018](#);
- [review comments for the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy](#);
- a [statement on the pan-European IPBES support perspective](#);

The review comments were submitted to the IPBES Interim Secretariat in July 2013.

The respective documents can also be viewed on the official IPBES website <http://ipbes.net/events-feed/362-pan-eur-stakeholder-meeting.html>.

Documentation

The full documentation of the meeting can be found on the NeFo website: <http://biodiversity.de/index.php/de/ipbes/nefo-aktivitaeten-zu-ipbes/workshops/pan-european-stakeholder-consultation>. Apart from the outcomes of the meeting, this website provides the introductory presentations, this meeting report and a video on stakeholder engagement in IPBES in general.

Workshop Agenda

TUESDAY, 16TH JULY 2013

12:00–13:00 **Registration; Light lunch**

13:00–13:30 **Welcome & Introduction**, Carsten Neßhöver (NeFo), Heidi Wittmer (UFZ)

13:30–15:00 **Introductory session**

General introduction to IPBES & intersessional period and draft work programme, *Nalini Sharma / Thomas Koetz, IPBES Interim Secretariat*

Stakeholder engagement strategy, *Anne Larigauderie (Diversitas / ICSU)*

European dimension of IPBES, *Hendrik Segers, Belgian Biodiversity Platform*

15:00–15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30–15:50 **Introduction to “round table” discussions**

15:50–17:00 **Round table discussions:** open brainstorming as first input into Day 2 break-out groups

- **Draft work programme:** Is the work programme addressing the four IPBES functions in a balanced way? Is the programme reasonably ambitious?
 - Are the thematic and methodological issues proposed the right priorities? What important aspects should they focus on? (Obj. 3 of draft work programme)
 - Which main elements should make up potential regional and global assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services? (Obj. 2 & 4)
 - Are the elements proposed for capacity building & knowledge generation appropriate? What would be needed? (Obj. 1 & 5)
 - Are the procedures proposed (draft procedures document) appropriate to implement the work programme?
- **Draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (SES)**
 - Are the objectives, definitions and guiding principles of the SES appropriate? (I.-III. of SES)
 - Are the strategic approaches of the SES sufficient, and how should they be implemented? (IV.-V. and Annex 1 of SES)
 - How could potential governance structures of the IPBES stakeholder processes look like? (self-organisation with regard to work programme and beyond)
- **Pan-European IPBES support perspective:** How can European stakeholders help to ensure and profit from the added value of IPBES?
 - What can IPBES contribute to support policy related to biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe?
 - What are the activities that could/should take place at the pan-European regional level and below?
 - How can pan-European activities for IPBES be organized?

17:15–17:40 *Reconvene at plenary for short wrap-up / Outlook day 2*

20:00–23:00 **Dinner in the Leipzig Zoo**, supported by Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and the Zoo Leipzig; Short welcome addresses from Leipzig biodiversity institutions: Georg Teutsch (UFZ), Christian Wirth (iDiv), Rasem Baban (Zoo Leipzig)

WEDNESDAY, 17TH JULY 2013

09:30–10:00	Introduction to day 2: Wrap-up from day 1 and introduction to break-out groups
10:00–11:00	Parallel break-out groups – with reference to the findings of the round table discussions of day 1 Group 1: Comments on draft Work Programme Group 2: Comments on draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Group 3: Vision for pan-European IPBES support perspective
11:00–11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30–12:30	Continuation of break-out groups
12:30–14:30	<i>Lunch with Networking café</i>
14:30–15:00	Reconvening at plenary, short status report from break-out groups
15:00–16:00	Continuation of break-out groups
16:00–16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:30–18:00	Continuation of break-out groups

THURSDAY, 18TH JULY 2013

09:00–11:00	Presentation of recommendations: review sheets from break-out groups 1 & 2
11:00–11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30–13:30	Presentation of recommendations: draft statement from break-out groups 3
13:30–14:00	Wrap-up & next steps
14:00	Closing & fare-well; <i>Light lunch</i>

Welcome and introduction

Carsten Neßhöver (NeFo, UFZ) opened the Pan-European Stakeholder Consultation on behalf of the organising national platforms and funders. He briefly introduced the background and the goals of the meeting, and informed about the workflow and the working modalities participants could expect during the following three days (see agenda). He emphasized the need for stakeholder engagement in IPBES and the request by the IPBES Secretariat for regional input, and stressed the importance of a pan-European perspective within the platform.

To give the participants a first impression about who attended the meeting, he and **Heidi Wittmer** (UFZ) presented a set of questions referring to the participants' disciplinary background, field of work, home country as well as their interest and previous experience with the IPBES process. The answers revealed a broad set of backgrounds, countries, and disciplinary expertise in the room, including a mix of researchers, NGO experts as well as participants from administration and policy.

Carsten released the participants into the introductory session by presenting a humorous analogy between a multi-fruit jam and a science-policy interface like IPBES:

- You need to bring together two different fruits (→ science and policy), or more (→ different knowledge forms) in the right way to ensure that both remain perceptible and visible in the jam in order to make a really good interface between them.
- This will need to ensure that you cook them right and not too much (→ for an SPI this means getting the process of conducting an assessment properly).
- Additionally, you will also need ingredients to keep the whole thing together and keep it fresh, like the sugar (→ this ensures credibility).
- You will also need a nice, good container or jar (→ e.g., a report format) to fill the jam in (→ the integrated knowledge).
- And finally, you will need to know which combination of fruits in a jam are currently asked for in the market (→ the relevance in policy discussions) in order to sell your jam well.

Introductory presentations: General introduction to IPBES, Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and European dimensions on IPBES

The [introduction to the IPBES process](#) (slides 1 to 21 in the presentation) was given by **Nalini Sharma** from the IPBES Interim Secretariat. Nalini went through the functions, the operating principles, the structure, the history and establishment of IPBES, reflected on the potential activities within the four functions and on the participation of stakeholders in the process. Subsequently, she addressed the achievements of the first plenary meeting of IPBES in Bonn (IPBES-1), the topics of the intersessional process and invited participants to the upcoming second plenary meeting (IPBES-2) to be held in Antalya, Turkey, in December 2013. She finished her presentation by stressing the importance of stakeholder participation in IPBES and welcomed the initiation of regional activities such as this PESC conference.

Subsequently, **Thomas Koetz**, formerly working for the European Commission and now with UNEP-WCMC in support of the IPBES Interim Secretariat, introduced the [current draft of the IPBES Work Programme](#) (slides 22 et seqq. in the presentation). After reflecting on the approaches and the process towards the drafting of the programme, he explained its structure, components and

the time frame that is envisaged for its implementation. The programme is currently structured according to the following five objectives:

- Objective 1: Enhance the enabling environment for the knowledge-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Objective 2: Strengthen the knowledge-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services on regional and sub-regional levels
- Objective 3: Strengthen the knowledge-policy interface with regards to thematic and methodological issues
- Objective 4: Strengthen the knowledge-policy interface on the global dimensions of changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Objective 5: Communicate and evaluate IPBES activities, deliverables and findings

Thomas also elaborated on the institutional arrangements and the indicative cost estimates for the five components (objectives) of the work programme. He closed his talk with inviting the participants to register for IPBES-2.

The [IPBES Stakeholder Engagement Strategy \(SES\)](#) was introduced by **Anne Larigauderie** from ICSU/DIVERSITAS, who informed about the development process of the strategy that is currently open for review. Subsequent to a broad [online survey](#) asking for stakeholders' interest in engaging with IPBES in spring 2013, ICSU/IUCN invited a broad range of stakeholders to an expert workshop in Paris to create the first SES draft. This document was revised by additional stakeholder groups and afterwards by the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) before it was submitted to the IPBES Secretariat. The [current draft of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy](#) consists of the following sections: Note from Secretariat, Objectives, Definition of stakeholders, Guiding principles, Strategic approaches, Implementation, and Annexes which Anne explained in-depth. In her closing remarks, Anne reflected on possible next steps in order to put the strategy into action and highlighted that stakeholders are key for the policy relevance, the effectiveness, the credibility and overall success of the platform.

Taking up the identified need for stakeholder engagement in IPBES, **Hendrik Segers** from the Belgian Biodiversity Platform [outlined the possible role of a pan-European stakeholder network in IPBES](#). He pointed out that the multiple dimensions of three two UN-regions in the room (WEOG, EEG and Asia-Pacific) in terms of history and traditions, ecosystems, knowledge communities, policy strategies and methodologies, as well as experience were predestined to feed into the four work areas of IPBES. Particularly, the already high level of stakeholder engagement, the existing high quality knowledge, elaborated networks and the close link to policy would help to increase the buy-in of (regional and local) decision-makers with regard to IPBES.

Round table discussions: First brainstorming on topics as input for Day 2

After the introductory talks and a short coffee break, participants were invited to an initial brainstorming on the three topics introduced by the speakers: the Draft Work Programme, the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, and the pan-European support perspective.

Inspired by the questions given by the organizers, the participants discussed the following main issues during this one-hour session:

1 Draft Work Programme (WP)

Overall question: Is the work programme addressing the four IPBES functions in a balanced way? Is the programme reasonably ambitious?

Are the thematic and methodological issues proposed the right priorities? What important aspects should they focus on? (Obj. 3 of draft work programme)

Participants noted / suggested that:

- topics remain partly too vague;
- important topics are missing, e.g. marine biodiversity, soil biodiversity, invasive alien species, land use change;
- a broad umbrella theme might be beneficial to start an all-inclusive science- and multi-stakeholder approach; the topic 3a 'degradation and restoration of land and water' could promote synergies in action between multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) and include agriculture quite naturally;
- there seems too strong a focus on agricultural assessments;
- the initial scoping should build on needs expressed by policy-makers (formulation & implementation);
- thematic assessment of marine biodiversity (incl. degradation & restoration) is needed;
- marine and forestry/deforestation issues are missing in 3a;
- global fisheries and their impact on food security should be assessed;
- themes should be stronger linked to key societal challenges and biodiversity (e.g. pollinators → food; forests → energy; desertification → area use; fisheries and coastal degradation → poverty; further important issues are resource efficiency, life cycle analyses, climate change / CO₂-uptake and biodiversity);
- plenty of knowledge gaps were identified in past assessments;
- importance of lesser known taxa and processes;
- analyses of policy tools not sufficiently spelled out (e.g. Bayesian approaches, multi-criteria analysis (MCA), mapping/assessment);
- ecosystem disservices are missing (e.g. disease vectors / biodiversity + public health)
- role of biodiversity in climate change politics is not explicitly mentioned;
- assessments on policy and governance are missing but needed; real solutions may not directly follow from natural science assessments;
- positive cases should be analysed;
- responsibilities, externalisation processes are not yet sufficiently reflected;
- analyze how positive changes (e.g. in consumption patterns) may be triggered;
- suitable indicators may be identified, however, they may not be applicable across regions;

Which main elements should make up potential regional and global assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services? (Obj. 2 & 4)

Participants noted / suggested that:

- guidelines should be on how to integrate – rather than guiding – (sub)regional assessments
- baseline information, and information on long-term trends and impacts on sociality are needed
- the time gap between issue identification and policy uptake needs to be shortened

Furthermore, they suggested the following elements for being important for potential regional and global assessments on BES:

- scenarios and interactions,
- mapping,
- different knowledge systems, and
- dealing with data deficiencies / heterogeneity (capacity building needed).

Are the elements proposed for capacity building & knowledge generation appropriate? What would be needed? (Obj. 1 & 5)

Participants noted / suggested that:

- needs may be better identified for specific topics and regions (and depend on data availability, and data quality);
- harmonization across scales is important;
- the fellowship programme could be implemented in partnership with universities; no preference for either training few people thoroughly or many people less intense;
- for capacity building, it seems reasonable to focus on the sub(-regional) level;
- capacity of traditional knowledge holders are not enough reflected;
- networking is important not only for capacity building but also for other functions;

Are the procedures proposed (draft procedures document) appropriate to implement the work programme?

Participants noted / suggested that

- the procedures document was mainly written through an "assessment lens" and that it seems necessary to elaborate procedures also for the other functions; as such, the procedures proposed seem more appropriate for products (e.g. of an assessment), less for processes (e.g. capacity building);
- the procedures should be adaptive, i.e. once experience has been gained there should be the possibility to modify them if needed;
- the procedures need to ensure the transparency of all processes;
- time lines should be realistic;
- productivity should be balanced with credibility / quality of work;
- the long-term commitment of IPBES is not sufficiently reflected in the document;
- it should be specified how uncertainties will be addressed;
- the structure of the document could be improved (e.g. repetitive passages to be deleted);

2 Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (SES)

Are the objectives, definitions and guiding principles of the SES appropriate (I.-III. of SES)?

Participants noted / suggested that:

Objectives:

- since the mandate is set by the decision of IPBES-1, the objective is clear and remains unchangeable;
- however, in the future IPBES process stakeholders should be also involved in the “shaping of the work programme” – not only in its implementation (this issue was already raised by stakeholders attending the SES drafting workshop with ICSU/IUCN in Paris; thus, a correspondent chapter was already included in the section ‘Note from Secretariat’);

Definitions:

- participants felt the definition of stakeholders being appropriate for the IPBES process: it is as broad as necessary to include all relevant stakeholders and should be favoured over an indicative stakeholder list (which was proposed in the Paris meeting but was erased by the MEP from the second draft); however, the indicative list could be used as a ‘check-list’ when identifying stakeholders to be involved in the various activities;
- the differences between observers, governments, stakeholders, and strategic partners remained unclear;
- participants urged a mechanism for identifying and addressing the unknown unknowns, i.e. those stakeholders who do not yet know that they might be affected by or contributing to the IPBES process;
- stakeholders should be represented in a balanced way in terms of e.g. regional, skills, gender, disciplines, amongst others;
- people urged to reflect and adapt both the work programme and the SES in a timely manner since the latter is meant to support the implementation of the first;

Guiding principles:

- the broadness of the principles allows covering fully different aspects and leaves the strategy open for adaption to the final work programme to be decided upon by IPBES-2;

Are the strategic approaches of the SES sufficient, and how should they be implemented (IV.-V. and Annex 1 of SES)?

Participants noted / suggested that:

- concerning the identification and engagement of stakeholders (para 7a), participants stressed the importance of a regional balance;
- people asked for an overview list with existing pan-European networks, fora and platforms on BES;
- it remained unclear what incentives there are for stakeholders to engage with IPBES;
- with regard to the relationship between the SES and the scoping activities, the identification of relevant stakeholders cannot be started before the topic is set;

- need to encourage cross-scale communication;
- the 'advisory panel' as proposed in para 9a) should have coordinating and advising functions to the IPBES bodies;
- need for regional and national thematic support structures was identified;
- member states should encourage the engagement of stakeholders through national facilitating structures, otherwise a regional engagement will be difficult; this also should be reflected in the 'lines of responsibility' (para 9b) in which member states should be included, too;

How could potential governance structures of the IPBES stakeholder processes look like (self-organisation with regard to work programme and beyond)?

Participants noted / suggested that:

- a strong wish for the organization of stakeholders on different levels (regional, national, global); globally, there is a need for a long-term engagement; regional / national: various forms of groups (steering group with all stakeholders involved, coordination group, assessment group, e.g. national focal point and / or self-organized stakeholder board);
- the implementation of the stakeholder engagement strategy should be the shared responsibility of a focal point within the IPBES secretariat and some kind of self-organized stakeholder board or forum on global level;
- include business;
- include governmental bodies (ministries) and local authorities;
- the evaluation of the stakeholder process should be conducted by an external organization, not by IPBES itself; a scientific advisory board should evaluate the quality of the inputs of stakeholders (with regard to content); the governance analysis should review the evolution of the process (with regard to stakeholder engagement), its mistakes, failures, and good developments
- need for local coordinators to facilitate the contributions; could be also initiated and carried out by governments; citizen forum on specific issues

3 Pan-European IPBES support perspective (PSP)

Overall question: How can European stakeholders help to ensure and profit from the added value of IPBES?

What can IPBES contribute to support policy related to biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe?

Participants noted / suggested that:

- help to justify implementation of policies on BES (also trans-sectorial; on various scales);
- use the UN prestige and moral credibility put biodiversity higher up on national & European policy agendas;
- pressure on governments to work more bottom up;
- enable experience exchange within regions outside of Europe;
- strengthen on-going processes – i.e. restoration target;
- identify knowledge gaps (real knowledge gaps and/or networking problem);
- identify concrete actions for BES at pan-European level (mobilizing & streamlining initiatives);
- testing the existing knowledge gaps in existing documents and reports;
- harmonization of data/knowledge;
- new way to organize science – make IPBES a new policy (IPCC as an example);
- ...through selection of stakeholders; better communication of scenarios & uncertainties;
- increased communication on BES;
- support European initiatives by COP conferences;
- seek dialogue with economic actors;
- raise awareness on limitations of economic activities (possibilities for a green economy?);
- sub-global assessment to give credibility to European work;
- IPBES as entry point to policy makers by organizing events;
- support regional hubs and processes;

What are the activities that could/should take place at the pan-European regional level and below?

Participants noted / suggested that:

- define Pan-European/Regional/ importance of overseas territories;
- methods to integrate them → challenge;
- impact of European policies on biodiversity outside Europe (ecological footprint); water & energy footprint → fast track of existing studies; meta-analysis (planetary approach; ecological footprint approach etc.);
- gap analysis to promote focused/targeted knowledge generation on European level;
- compare methodologies across countries and regions on data gathering and analysis;
- chase redundancies in the different policy instruments; clarify, harmonize, simplify things for policy makers → to get a better picture;
- same as above but for data → streamline & coordinate programmes to avoid duplication;

- encourage consortia & meetings in Europe who have the habit to gather together; and it works! → encourage that further for the support of IPBES;
- test cases of good/bad; use/impact tools; methods coming from/used in IPBES;
- propose to lead global assessments when excellent datasets and expertise exist in Europe;
- catalogue of briefs → policy makers need short & clear things (policy briefs are scattered!);
- organize facilitation between science & policy makers; involvement of the DGs is needed! However, also heterogeneity between the different DGs → we need to include the various players & views on models, indicators, forecast etc.;
- support national capabilities;
- use existing maps of stakeholders to implement IPBES agenda;
- encourage initiatives to increase data accessibility/data gathering/data quality;
- encouraging partnerships across countries as a mean to build capacities (amongst stakeholders, NGOs) and influence the research agenda;

How can pan-European activities for IPBES be organized?

Participants noted / suggested that:

- Focus should be on bio-geographical regions & ecosystems, not UN regions (clarification of the pan European boundaries); or a more thematic focus;
- check of the administrative structures that are already in place to support this;
- start with existing hubs → identify them & the stakeholder & government component;
- identify potential hubs – e.g. EPBRS as secretariat: permanent structure/long term perspective (vs. short term projects though these can still support the IPBES process);
- not only do the mapping – but also use the mapping structures (like KNEU);
- bodies/structures promoting the communication between IPBES & stakeholders – so that stakeholders are aware of the IPBES objectives, and check where they can feed in;
- bodies/structures coordinating process of stakeholders engagement and input;
- bodies/structures that harmonize between the various scales (local, national, sub-regional, regional, global) → aggregate and disaggregate at the different scales; harmonize but stay flexible and keep some diversity;
- bodies/structures to chase redundancies (in data, and policies etc.);
- bodies/structures to do a regular evaluation of how these Pan-European activities are organized & how they are linked;

After one hour of discussion, the participants reconvened at the Plenary to hear brief summaries of the major points raised at the roundtables.

The first day of the PESC meeting closed with a dinner at the Leipzig Zoo, with the possibility to visit the 'Godwanaland' with its plants and animals, funded by the [Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research](#) (UFZ), the Zoo Leipzig, and supported by the newly founded [Centre for Integrated Biodiversity Research iDiv](#).

WEDNESDAY, 17TH JULY 2013

Having collected initial ideas and comments on the two IPBES documents and the pan-European perspective on Day 1, the second day started with the introduction into three break-out groups dedicated to elaborate on each of the three topics more deeply and to formulate comments on the Work Programme and the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy that would be submitted to the Interim Secretariat as part of the official online review process. Break-out groups continued throughout the day with coffee breaks, and a networking café as well as a short status-report in between and after lunch time.

The outcomes of the different break-out groups are summarized below.

1 Draft Work Programme (WP)

Two separate break-out groups discussed the draft work programme. While group A focused on objectives 1, 2, 4 and 5, group B focused on objective 3. The outcomes of the two break-out groups were later combined into a single review sheet.

The following paragraphs capture some of the major comments that the participants agreed on (extracted from the [review sheet that was submitted to the Interim Secretariat](#)).

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The **link with the stakeholder engagement strategy should be strengthened** and be made more explicit as the successful implementation of the work programme depends largely on the effective involvement of stakeholders in IPBES activities.

A definition of what an assessment is should be added. It was understood that a glossary within the conceptual framework would be developed and could provide such a definition. This would be highly welcomed.

OBJECTIVE 1:

An indicative scope should be provided of what 'capacities to strengthen the science-policy interface' would encompass (inter alia capacity related to knowledge and data gaps), with reference to the existing documents on that issue (e.g. the report of the capacity building workshop which took place in Trondheim in May 2011).

Important components of improving the enabling environment for an effective science-policy interface also encompass capacities for identifying existing knowledge and for improving the accessibility of data. The introduction to objective 1 should take reference to the scoping processes envisaged. We recommend that the results of the scoping processes would also be taken into account when capacity-building needs are prioritized.

Capacity building activities should be identified at different scales – depending on the capacity which is needed, the scale might differ, e.g. some cross-cutting themes would be dealt with globally, whilst some other activities (such as capacity to better use policy tools) are best undertaken at the sub-regional level as there is a need for adaptation according to language, culture, local biodiversity...

The objective here should clearly be to recognize existing networks, to build on their work and to use synergies effectively rather than creating new networks. It is further important to stress that the networking approach is also highly relevant for the other three functions of IPBES, not just for the capacity building function, and will also support the communication work of Objective 5.

Capacities of traditional and local knowledge holders and stakeholders in general not acknowledged appropriately in the rationale of deliverable 1d.

OBJECTIVE 2:

A definition of “regional” different than the UN regional groups is urgently needed as it is absolutely essential for the regional IPBES activities to be conducted within a sensible geographic, cultural, social, and environmental scope. This is necessary also to ensure that the IPBES activities will respond to the regional specificities with regard to societal needs, perceptions, values and well-being (see also the statement on the Pan-European dimensions of IPBES support).

The geographic boundaries for the regional and sub-regional assessments will have to be decided on the ground of ecological, political and societal considerations and it should clearly be mentioned that this is a very important component of the scoping process (with reference to the relevant document, if appropriate). This will ensure that assessments have maximum impact and are policy relevant.

OBJECTIVE 3:

We propose to split the deliverable 3a into a two step approach: 1) a first thematic assessment addressing the degradation and restoration of ecosystems (terrestrial, fresh water and marine), to be delivered after a 2-years period by the end of 2015; and 2) a second thematic assessment on biodiversity and food security to be delivered after a two years period by 2018.

This second assessment could build, amongst others, on the first assessment on degradation and restoration, as well as on the fast track assessment on pollination and its impact on food security.

As a “low hanging fruit”, this topic is strategically very important and thus 3b is highly welcomed. Nonetheless, the pre-scoping of the topic should check for a wider scope of the assessment with regard to the ecosystem services provided by insects (pollination, pest control, adverse effects of pesticides etc.) and stronger link it to the issue of food security.

Furthermore, the work done as part of the CBD programme of work on agriculture needs to be considered and build on.

OBJECTIVE 4:

The objective should include the analysis of policies and environmental governance. Suggestion: "Integrated analyzes including the **efficiency** and effectiveness of policies, **decision making processes and relevant governance** for conservation, sustainable use...."

The global assessment should include socio-economic scenarios (and, therefore, impacts of changes in policies and society). An explicit reference to such scenarios should be made, as well as to deliverables 3c and 3d which are laying the ground for such analyses.

There should be consistency between this global assessment and the ones previously undertaken, as well as those which will follow, so that temporal trends in biodiversity and ecosystem services can be monitored.

OBJECTIVE 5:

Communication is what will underpin all the work of the previous objectives to be sure that the products are actually used. Deliverables 5 a-c do not address **how** to engage stakeholders/users so that they will use the catalogues, website, etc.

A strong communication strategy that is well-linked to the stakeholder engagement strategy will be needed.

When communicating IPBES products, uncertainties inherent to the outcomes should be clearly stated and explained so that users are fully aware of the limits in interpretation. This aspect should be included in the communication strategy to be developed. Inter alia, the IPCC and the NEA UK have developed very promising approaches in this respect.

2 Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (SES)

The break-out group on the SES started with a short wrap-up of the major points from Day 1 (see above) and a brief clarification of terms used in the IPBES context that had remained unclear from the previous day (e.g. 'observers' vs. 'stakeholders' vs. 'governments')¹.

Subsequently, the group identified the most crucial points of the strategy that were to be taken into consideration when formulating specific comments:

- Objective: Is the objective appropriate or should it be enlarged to comprise other aspects of IPBES, e.g. stakeholder engagement in the shaping of the WP?

¹ In the IPBES context, the term 'governments and other stakeholders' is used which led to confusion since participants usually distinguish between governments and stakeholders and do not consider governments as stakeholders. Pierre Commerville (IUCN) stressed that indeed governments are regarded as stakeholders in the IPBES process. However, they differ from 'other stakeholders' in the plenary by being the only ones having voting power – all other stakeholders are 'observers' that only can convey comments to the plenary.

- Definition of stakeholders: Is the broadness of the definition ensuring inclusiveness?
- Implementation and action plan: What are the next steps in order to bring the SES to life?
- Integration of the WP and the SES: Both documents should mutually reflect on each other in order to highlight the importance of stakeholder engagement in IPBES.

The following paragraphs capture some of the major comments that the participants agreed on (extracted from the [review sheet that was submitted to the Interim Secretariat](#)).

OBJECTIVE (SECTION I):

“It is very important to highlight the participation of stakeholders not only in the implementation of the work programme, but also in other IPBES activities and related processes. Stakeholders should also be involved, amongst others, in development of the work programme, participation in working groups, discussions in the plenary, in promoting the work of the platform, and in promoting the uptake of the products of the platform. There should be mechanisms for participation for stakeholders to proactively approach the platform.”

DEFINITION OF STAKEHOLDERS (SECTION II):

“We strongly support the proposed definition of stakeholders to be involved, since it is as broad as necessary to include all relevant stakeholders. Participants also recommended adopting it to other aspects of IPBES beyond this strategy. However, there was also the notion arising from the group that the definition of stakeholders should explicitly include individuals.”

“We support that special attention should be paid to stakeholders that so far are not well represented in IPBES.”

STRATEGIC APPROACHES (SECTION IV):

“The engagement of stakeholders for each activity of the work programme should be tailor-made towards the work programme’s aspects and deliverables in all phases of its implementation.”

“Ownership by stakeholders should be strived for because ownership is expected to lead to an increased impact and implementation of IPBES and does not affect the ownership of decision making in the plenary and does not imply ownership in a juridical sense.”

“Add additional bullet point: ‘H) TO CLARIFYING THE BENEFITS FOR STAKEHOLDERS;’ ”

IMPLEMENTATION (SECTION V):

“The advisory panel should have not only advising but also coordinating function for the implementation of the strategy, including by proposing concrete actions related to the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and the Work Programme. Further, there is a strong need for regional and national as well as thematic support structures.”

“There is a strong need for facilitation of stakeholder engagement by the national governments through their IPBES Focal Points in order to strengthen the national and regional perspectives and contributions.”

“The SES is a key element of the entire set of IPBES processes and hence should be reviewed independently. It is key to also evaluate the contributions of stakeholders in the IPBES processes.”

“We propose an adjustment of the whole paragraph, including a new first sentence: ‘THE MEP AND THE BUREAU, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARIAT, SHOULD DEVELOP AN INDICATIVE LIST OF FIRST ACTIONS TO ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME (WITH AN INDICATED BUDGET) TO BE PROPOSED TO THE PLENARY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FOUR FUNCTIONS OF THE PLATFORM. THE INDICATIVE LIST SHOULD BE BASED ON THE ANNEX 1 OF THE DRAFT STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY COMING FROM THE WORKSHOP IN PARIS (29./30.04.2013) CONVENED BY IUCN AND ICSU, AS WELL AS FROM THE OPEN REVIEW PROCESS (E.G. FROM OTHER REGIONAL/NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS, SUCH AS THE PAN-EUROPEAN STAKEHODLER CONSULTATION IN LEIPZIG, GERMANY).’ The proposed adjustment of the whole paragraph should give a mandate to the MEP, Bureau, Secretariat and stakeholders to develop and contribute to such an indicative list of actions. The list of actions might be structured according to the four functions of the platform.”

ANNEX 1. INDICATIVE ELEMENTS OF AN ACTION PLAN:

“We support the existing list. Further, the participants of the Pan-European Stakeholder Consultation in Leipzig compiled the following list of indicative actions to be considered for the prompt operationalisation of this strategy:

List of actions to be taken (indicative list):

- a) With regard to the strategy
 - emphasize the inclusion of stakeholders currently underrepresented in IPBES → propose and undertake specific activities with regard to capacity building and information dissemination
 - develop a plan for reviewing this strategy
 - align this strategy with the upcoming work programme
- b) With regard to the overall process
 - in order to start the implementation of this strategy promptly, the plenary should consider the operationalization of this strategy by
 - adopting the action plan / list of first actions,
 - establishing an [advisory committee [advisory committee / board /panel] and spell out an appropriate mandate

3 Pan-European IPBES support perspective (PSP)

The break-out group on the pan-European IPBES support perspective drafted a [meeting statement on the pan-European dimensions of IPBES](#) in which the participants highlighted the great potential in IPBES to support the dialogue between decision making and knowledge holders on the pan-

European scale, its sub-regions, countries, and even on the local scale. Europe offers great potential to significantly contribute to, and profit from, IPBES. An integrative stakeholder perspective described in the draft stakeholder engagement strategy of IPBES would be crucial in this respect.

The group reflected on the societal needs and challenges of the pan-European context. Through its current production and consumption models (energy consumption, food production, mining, tourism and transportation, amongst others) pan-Europe has a direct impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services – in Europe and elsewhere. Hence, in order to ensure IPBES' relevance for European societies, there is a strong need to customise IPBES' activities for the pan-European context by identifying citizens' societal needs, perceptions, responsibilities, values and well-being as images of the existing economic patterns and models. This may include an assessment of pan-Europe's impacts on other parts of the world.

On principle, participants noted, IPBES assessments should be approached by an ecological perspective – following for instance the Ecosystem Approach adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and taking into account bio-geographical and ecological boundaries, rather than political ones, as basic units in its work

Considering the strengths of pan-Europe with regard to IPBES, it was highlighted that particularly the existing dense and diverse network of excellent knowledge holders being involved in a great variety of programmes, projects and national biodiversity platforms is a great asset enabling to directly and promptly start IPBES' regional and sub-regional work (see also the [introductory talk by Hendrik Segers](#)). IPBES should recognize, encourage and support their engagement and knowledge flow. Further, pan-Europe can contribute through its strong interdisciplinary and methodological expertise, its experience in conducting assessments, its strong collaborative experiences on the international level, and its active and aware civil society.

The participants see the added value pan-Europe will receive from IPBES particularly in the stronger evidence on regional challenges with regard to biodiversity and ecosystems, and the increased awareness of their links to human well-being. IPBES may provide options for the improvement of policies and their implementation, create incentives for more efficient knowledge coordination, and highlight the interlinkage with global multilateral environmental agreements (e.g. UNCBD) and their application to the pan-European region.

Finally, the major requirements for an effective collaboration of pan-European knowledge holders and IPBES were identified as i) capacity building in order to facilitate stakeholders' contributions, e.g. by establishing national support platforms, ii) identification and maintenance of existing European structures, networks and programmes which can serve as major contributors, iii) development of strategies to identify and engage stakeholder currently underrepresented in the IPBES process, and (iv) ensuring a proper evaluation process including the impacts and the satisfaction with IPBES' activities.

Taking all these considerations into account, the participants of the conference strongly support the development of a continuous stakeholder engagement process at the pan-European scale beyond the UN-regions which form the basis of IPBES governance.

THURSDAY, 18TH JULY 2013

Day 3 was dedicated to bring back the results from the break-out groups into the plenary to inform all participants about the ideas and comments on which consensus had been largely reached among the participants and to share additional thoughts. The facilitators of the groups gave a short overview about the discussions and highlighted the major points of the created documents. Participants were asked to complement and critically discuss the presented issues; their comments were documented and later fed into the final version of the annotations.

After giving an explanation on the further procedure for the finalisation of the documents (online consolidation until July via email consultation with all participants, 23rd; submission to the IPBES Secretariat by July, 27th), the meeting was closed with some final remarks of the organisers and partners.

Outcomes of the workshop

Products

During the meeting the participants created **two consolidated review comments** and a **statement on the pan-European IPBES support perspective**:

- [review comments for the IPBES Draft Work Programme 2014-2018](#);
- [review comments for the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy](#);
- a [statement on the pan-European IPBES support perspective](#);

The review comments were submitted to the IPBES Interim Secretariat in July 2013.

The respective documents can also be viewed on the official IPBES website <http://ipbes.net/events-feed/362-pan-eur-stakeholder-meeting.html>.

Documentation

The full documentation of the meeting can be found on the NeFo website: <http://biodiversity.de/index.php/de/ipbes/nefo-aktivitaeten-zu-ipbes/workshops/pan-european-stakeholder-consultation>. Apart from the outcomes of the meeting, this website provides the introductory presentations, this meeting report and a video on stakeholder engagement in IPBES in general.

The idea of the video is to present the expectations of several participants of the PESC conference with regard to the structure of IPBES and the potential content as well as their own contribution. The key question is: What is needed to make IPBES a success? To tell that story a little bit different than usual, we created a fake retrospective documentary out of the year 2023 (10 years beyond), when IPBES is envisaged to be already successful, and let the experts explain how that was possible.

The Video was produced cooperatively by NeFo and the Belgian Biodiversity Platform. It is supposed to be shown on a side-event during the IPBES-2 plenary in December in Antalya.

Closing remarks & acknowledgements

The first Pan-European Stakeholder Consultation brought together more than 80 interested experts, knowledge holders and other stakeholders from 29 countries of three UN-regions (WEOG, EEG and Asia-Pacific), and offered a pan-European forum for discussion and input at this critical phase of the emerging IPBES.

The meeting achieved to:

- build a common level of understanding among the pan-European biodiversity knowledge holders about the current IPBES process;
- create consolidated annotations for the IPBES Draft Work Programme and the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy which were submitted to the IPBES Interim Secretariat in the course of the open consultation period;
- draft a document on the pan-European support perspective for IPBES.

Many participants expressed the will and interest to continue the work started at this meeting and develop a pan-European engagement perspective into IPBES.

We would like to thank all conference participants for their contributions to the lively and open discussions and to an inspiring mutual learning process. We are very grateful to our numerous facilitators for their excellent work without which this meeting would not have been possible (Hendrik Segers, Hilde Eggermont, and Angelique Berhault (all Belgian Biodiversity Platform), Barbara Livoreil and Cécile Blanc (all FRB), Allan Watt (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Edinburgh), Thomas Koetz (UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge), Nalini Sharma (UNEP, Nairobi), Axel Paulsch (IBN, Regensburg), Günter Mitlacher (WWF Germany, Berlin), Marie Vandewalle, Heidi Wittmer, Carolin Kugel, Julian Rode (all UFZ Leipzig).

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The Team of the Network-Forum for Biodiversity Research Germany (NeFo)



Participants of the Pan-European Stakeholder Consultation (photo: Ogarit Uhlmann, F&U confirm)

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Weitere Informationen und Hinweise zum NeFo-Projekt und Team unter www.biodiversity.de.